

disk and an actuator assembly positioning the slider over a surface of the disk, the method comprising:

rotating the disk;

radially moving the slider relative to the disk surface in a reciprocal fashion, causing the read pad to rock; and,

burnishing the read pad via contact between the rear pad and the disk surface;

wherein the rear pad is burnished as the rear pad rocks, imparting a positive camber in the rear pad relative to the reading and/or writing element, and

wherein radially moving the slider includes operating the actuator assembly in a first operational state when a height of the rear pad is relatively large and in a second operational state when the height is reduced, and further wherein the first operational state differs from the second operational state by at least one of radially slider velocity, radial slider acceleration, radial slider travel distance, and tangential slider velocity.

2/12. (Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the first operational state is characterized by an initial stage of burnishing and the second operational state is characterized by a final stage of burnishing, and further wherein the slider is moved a shorter radial distance in the second operational state as compared to the first operational state.